

REMARKS

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated March 15, 2006 and the references cited therein. By way of the present amendment, former claims 1-4 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12-17, which were previously withdrawn, have also been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 6. Claims 7, 8 and 10 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 5 in view of the cancellation of claim 6. Claims 5 and 7-11 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over any of *Merkel et al.*, *Baird* or *Baumel* when combined with *Boerio et al.* Independent claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of former dependent claim 6, which was indicated as having allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 5 and claims 7-11 that depend there from are now directed to subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable.

Claims 6-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. As discussed above, claim 5 incorporates the subject matter of former claim 6 and the remaining claims all depend directly or indirectly there from. Applicant asserts that the claims are in condition for allowance.

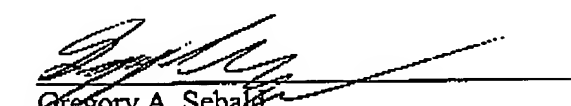
Reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

A speedy and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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